UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

2017-2018
season of events

Thursdays at Noon: Winners' Recital
Jim and Charlotte Norcop Prize in Song and Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky Prize in Accompanying

Simona Genga, mezzo-soprano and Jialiang Zhu, piano

March 29, 2018 | 12:10 pm | Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

PROGRAM

Vier Lieder Op. 2 "Four Songs" — Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951)

1. Erwartung
2. Schenk mir deinen goldenen Kamm
3. Erhebung
4. Waldsonne

Kitchen Cantata Selections (1995) — Harry Freedman* (1922-2005)

1. Breakfast
3. Casserole
4. Coffee Klatch
6. Morning Again

Les nuits d'été "Summer Nights" Selections — Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

2. La spectre de la rose
4. L'Absence
6. L'ile inconnue

I canti della sera "The Songs of the Evening" — Francesco Santoliquido (1883-1971)

1. L'assiolo canta
2. Alba di luna sul bosco
3. Tristezza crepuscolare
4. L'incontro

*Canadian composer and former composition faculty at the University of Toronto.

Simona Genga and Jialiang Zhu would like to thank Professor Steven Philcox for his time and guidance in preparation for this recital.

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

JIM AND CHARLOTTE NORCOP PRIZE IN SONG

The annual prize was established in 2009 and is awarded to the singer at the Faculty of Music showing the most promise in performance of the song literature. Past winners have been Leslie Ann Bradley, Geoffrey Sirett, Aviva Fortunata Wilks, Andrew Haji, Charles Sy, Jennifer Krabbe, Emily D'Angelo and Joel Allison.

GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS KOLDOFSKY PRIZE IN ACCOMPANYING

The annual prize was established in 2011 and is awarded to the collaborative pianist at the Faculty of Music showing the most promise in performance of the song literature. Past winners include Susan Black, Narmina Afandiyeva, Ivan Jovanovic, Lara Dodds-Eden, Sonya Sim and Mélisande Sinsoulier.

Gwendolyn Williams was born November 1, 1906 in Bowmanville, Ontario. She studied piano in Toronto with Viggo Kihl. At 17, she went to London where she studied piano with Tobias Matthay and ensemble playing and accompanying with Harold Craxton. Later, she spent several months in Paris studying French repertoire with Marguerite Hasselmans. When she was 20, she returned to Canada and was plunged almost immediately into an accompanying career when the great Canadian soprano, Jeanne Dusseau asked Mrs. Koldofsky to play for her. One musical engagement led to another at an exhilarating pace. A year after her return to Canada, she met and married the violinist Adolph Koldofsky. For the next quarter century, she accompanied all of her husband's solo recitals and played every form of chamber music with him on concert stages around the world. In 1945, the couple moved to Los Angeles, where Mrs. Koldofsky was engaged to teach accompanying at the School of Music of the University of Southern California. She taught accompanying, song literature and chamber music at USC from 1947 to 1988. She was also a longtime member of the faculty of the Santa Barbara Music Academy of the West, where she served as director of vocal accompanying from 1951 to 1989. She judged competitions, lectured and taught master classes for accompanists, singers and ensembles throughout the United States and Canada. Among her many students were mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne, pianist Martin Katz and soprano Carol Neblett.

For more than 40 years, Koldofsky appeared as an accompanist throughout the world, working with such distinguished artists as Rose Bampton, Suzanne Danco, Herta Glaz, Mack Harrell, Marilyn Horne, Jan Peerce, Hermann Prey, Peter Schreier, Martial Singher and Eleanor Steber. She assisted Lotte Lehmann on many tours during the latter's last eight years of performing and for 11 years was Lehmann's accompanist and coach-assistant at the Music Academy of the West. Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky died November 12, 1998 in Santa Barbara at the age of 92.

BIOGRAPHIES

An assiduous and devoted musician, mezzo-soprano **Simona Genga** is at once "compelling and technically confident" (*Opera Canada*) and "formidable" (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*). The Vaughan, Ontario, native most recently won First Prize and the Audience Choice Award at the 2017 Ensemble Studio Competition and is currently pursuing an M.Mus in Opera Performance at the University of Toronto under the tutelage of Wendy Nielsen. An avid interpreter of song, Genga was grateful to win the 2017 Norcop Recital Prize, and to have received a grant from the Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation to attend the Franz Schubert Institut in Baden-bei-Wien in 2016. As a Gerdine Young Artist at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, she appeared in the choruses for *La clemenza di Tito*, *Madama Butterfly* and *The Grapes of Wrath*, in which she also sang the role of the Cabin Mistress. She returns there this summer to sing Annina in *La Traviata*. Her additional credits include Mary Turner in *Of Thee I Sing* (U of T Opera); Nettie Fowler in *Carousel* (Chautauqua Voice Festival); Sister Helen in *Dead Man Walking* (Opera NUOVA); La Sciagurata in *Prima Zombie* and Juno in *Orfée aux enfers* (U of T Opera); Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff* and Teacup/Dragonfly/Squirrel in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (UWOpera).

A native of China, **Jialiang Zhu**, winner of the 2017-18 Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky Prize in Accompanying is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Toronto under the tutelage of Lydia Wong, where she also completed her Bachelor in Piano Performance and Master in Piano Performance and Pedagogy with Marietta Orlov. Zhu's joy in collaboration has led her to projects such as Tapestry New Opera Workshops, FAWN opera production *Herma's Shepherd: Vision I* at the Open Ear Festival of Art, Architecture and Sound, and Tapestry Opera/Canadian Stage co-production *Noor over Afghan* at the Festival of Ideas and Creation. Previously, Zhu has participated in the Toronto Summer Music Festival and the Banff Collaborative Piano Residency Program among others, where she had the opportunity to be mentored by and to work with artists from all over the world. A founding member of the Bedford Trio, Zhu performs regularly with violinist Alessia Disimino and cellist Andrew Ascenzo. She has appeared as soloist in the Beethoven *Choral Fantasy* with the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the York Chamber Ensemble, and was a semi-finalist in the 2016 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition. Winner of the 2018 DMA Recital Competition, Jialiang Zhu will appear on the Thursdays at Noon series in the 2018-19 season. As an educator, she has been working at the U of T Children's Pedagogy Program for the past six years, teaching both private lessons and group classes.

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